

### Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

The invention provides compounds bearing amino and carboxy groups. In one embodiment, the invention provides Compounds of formula (I): Z'-CO-A-B-NH-Z (I) wherein: Z is H or an amino protecting group; Z' is OH, a protected or activated hydroxyl group or C1; A is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group; and B is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group polyamido moieties comprising at least one unit of formula (II): -CO-A-B-NH- (II) wherein A is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group and B is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group. The unit of formula (II) may be bound to one or more other units of formula (II) or amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl units of formula (III): -CO-R-NH- wherein E is either optionally substituted C<sub>5-20</sub> heteroarylene or C<sub>8-10</sub> heteroarylene-C<sub>5-20</sub> arylene. The invention provides methods of synthesizing the compounds. The invention further provides methods of using the compounds in synthesizing molecules designed to interact with DNA.